

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

**Please amend claims 4, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, and 21 as follows:**

1. (Original) A tripod (1) having a tripod top (3), at least one tripod leg (2) consisting of at least three telescopically guided segments (5, 6, 7) for length adjustment, and a fixing device for fixing the adjusted length of the tripod leg (2), characterized in that the fixing device is actuated by rotation of the middle segment (6) relative to the first segment (5) facing the tripod top (3), and the third segment (7) facing away from the tripod top (3) is disposed rotationally fast relative to the middle segment (6).

2. (Original) A tripod according to claim 1, characterized in that a turning handle (46) is pivotally mounted on the first segment (5) to act on the middle segment (6) in rotationally fast fashion.

3. (Original) A tripod according to claim 2, characterized in that the turning handle (46) is disposed on the end of the first segment (5) facing away from the tripod top (3).

4. (Currently Amended) A tripod according to ~~any of the above claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the fixing device is formed as a clamping device.

5. (Original) A tripod according to claim 4, characterized in that the clamping device has a rod (8) guided rotationally fast in the first segment (5) and disposed rotatably in the middle and third segments (6, 7), and a slide (13, 14) rotationally fast and axially displaceable on the rod (8) for engaging at least one clamping element with the inside of the first segment (5) upon rotation of the middle segment (6) relative to the first segment (5) in one direction, and disengaging it therefrom upon rotation in the reverse direction.

6. (Original) A tripod according to claim 5, characterized in that the clamping element acting on the inside of the first segment (5) is disposed on the rod (8).

7. (Currently Amended) A tripod according to claim 5 ~~or 6~~, characterized in that the clamping element acting on the inside of the middle segment (6) is disposed on the end of the third segment (7) facing the tripod top (3).

8. (Currently Amended) A tripod according to ~~any of claims 5 to 7~~ claim 5, characterized in that the clamping element has a surface (28a, 28b, 29a, 29b) extending obliquely to the longitudinal axis (27) of the tripod leg (2) and acted on by the slide (13, 14).

9. (Original) A tripod according to claim 8, characterized in that the slide (13, 14) is loaded toward the oblique surface (28a, 28b, 29a, 29b) with a spring (31, 32).

10. (Currently Amended) A tripod according to ~~any of claims 5 to 9~~ claim 5, characterized in that the slide (13, 14) has a surface facing the tripod top (3), and the middle segment (6) and the third segment (7) have an abutment surface (39, 40) loaded by the spring (31, 32) against the surface on the slide (13, 14), the surface on the slide (13, 14) and/or the abutment surface (39, 40) being formed as a cam surface (37, 38) oblique to the longitudinal axis (27) of the tripod leg.

11. (Currently Amended) A tripod according to ~~any of claims 5 to 14~~ claim 5, characterized in that the clamping element is loaded out of the engaged position by a return spring (55, 56).

12. (Currently Amended) A tripod according to ~~any of claims 5 to 14~~ claim 5, characterized in that the clamping element is formed as a lever (18 - 21).

13. (Original) A tripod according to claim 12, characterized in that the lever (18, 19) acting on the inside of the first segment (5) is linked to the rod (8).

14. (Original) A tripod according to claim 13, characterized in that the lever (18, 19) is linked to the end of the rod (8) facing the tripod top (3).

15. (Original) A tripod according to claim 12, characterized in that the lever (20, 21) acting on the inside of the middle segment (6) is linked to the third segment (7).

16. (Currently Amended) A tripod according to ~~any of claims 12 to 15~~ claim 12, characterized in that at least one lever (18, 19; 20, 21) adapted to be spread apart acts on the inside of the first segment (5) and/or the middle segment (6) in each case.

17. (Currently Amended) A tripod according to ~~claims 11 and 16~~ claim 11, characterized in that the return spring (55, 56) connects the two levers (18, 19; 20, 21).

18. (Currently Amended) A tripod according to ~~any of claims 5 to 17~~ claim 5, characterized in that the slide (13, 14) is formed as a sheath displaceable on the rod (8).

19. (Currently Amended) A tripod according to ~~any of the above claims~~, claim 1 characterized in that the end of the middle segment (6) and third segment (7) facing the tripod top (3) has an end cap (33, 24).

20. (Currently Amended) A tripod according to ~~claims 10 and 19~~ claim 10, characterized in that the abutment surface (39, 40) is provided in the end cap (33, 24).

21. (Currently Amended) A tripod according to ~~claims 10 and 20~~ claim 10, characterized in that the spring (31, 32) loading the slides (13, 14) is supported on the end cap (33, 24).